

## Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1206

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, MX

SUBJ: SEMINAR ON "THE US POLITICAL SYSTEM" (CP PROJ. NO. IIA, WS-05)

SUMMARY: EMBASSY REQUESTS CU SUPPORT FOR 5-DAY SEMINAR  
ON "THE US. POLITICAL SYSTEM," TO BE HELD AT A US.  
UNIVERSITY MARCH OR APRIL 1976, FOLLOWED BY 2-3 DAYS  
IN WASHINGTON TO COMPLEMENT ACADEMIC PORTION. END SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE AND DESCRIPTION: REALISTIC UNDERSTANDING OF  
THE POLITICAL FOCUS OF US. FOREIGN POLICY IS A PRIMARY CP  
OBJECTIVE. SEMINAR WOULD DEAL WITH ASPECTS OF US. POLITICAL  
SYSTEM SUCH AS ROLES OF INTEREST GROUPS, MEDIA, PUBLIC OPINION,  
CONGRESS, WHITE HOUSE, FEDERAL BUREAUCRACY, STATE AND LOCAL  
GOVERNMENTS. THE VARIOUS TOPICS WOULD BE DISCUSSED BY  
POLITICAL SCIENTISTS FROM HOST UNIVERSITY AND NEARBY ACADEMIC  
INSTITUTIONS, AND BY ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS IN POLITICAL SYSTEM  
FROM STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, BUSINESS, LABOR, POLITICAL  
PARTIES, CONGRESS, STATE, DEFENSE, TREASURY, ETC. HOPEFULLY  
SOME OF THESE LATTER COULD PARTICIPATE IN THE SEMINAR  
ITSELF OUTSIDE WASHINGTON; OTHERS WOULD BE INCLUDED IN  
POST-SEMINAR PERIOD IN WASHINGTON.

2. PROJECT OFFICER: HARRY ICELAND.

3. PROPOSED DATES: APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK IN PERIOD  
MIS-MARCH TO MID-APRIL.

4. SPONSOR: CRITERIA FOR SELECTION SHOULD BE MAJOR  
UNIVERSITY WITH OUTSTANDING POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT,  
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SPECIALISTS AND PROBABLY A LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM (WHICH MIGHT CO-SPONSOR SEMINAR AND INCLUDE PARTICIPATION STUDENTS AND FACULTY WITH INTEREST IN MEXICO). EMBASSY SUGGESTS HARVARD, PRINCETON, MIT AND YALE AS POSSIBLE SITES; WOULD NOT OBJECT TO CU SELECTION OF SAIS AS POSSIBILITY, SINCE EMBASSY EXTREMELY PLEASED WITH SAIS SEMINAR EFFORTS TO DATE, BUT ASSUME THIS PROJECT WOULD CONFLICT WITH CU MULTI-REGIONAL INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS SEMINARS OCCURING DURING SAME TIME PERIOD. (IF SAIS CHOSEN, OBVIATES NEED FOR 2-3 DAY POST-ACADEMIC CONFERENCE).

5. PARTICIPANTS: TEN-TWELVE IV'S WOULD BE GOVERNMENT, MEDIA AND ACADEMIC SPECIALISTS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE, LAW, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. THEY WOULD BE SELECTED FROM UPPER-MIDDLE LEVELS OF THEIR INSTITUTIONS, SUCH AS ADVISORS OR STAFF ASSISTANTS TO CABINET SECRETARIES OR ASSISTANT SECRETARIES; UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE DIRECTORS; COLUMNISTS AND TV COMMENTATORS ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. MEXICANS WOULD BE SOPHISTICATED SPECIALISTS WITH STRONG ACADEMIC BACKGROUNDS AND SOME BASIC KNOWLEDGE OF US. POLITICAL SYSTEM. THEIR INTEREST IS PRAGMATIC RATHER THAN THEORETICAL, CONCERN ABOUT HOW US. SYSTEM CRATES FOREIGN POLICY AND, MORE SPECIFICALLY, AFFECTS US.-MEXICAN RELATIONS AND WHAT ARE SEEN AS VITAL MEXICAN DOMESTIC INTERESTS. MOST WILL BE FLUENT IN ENGLISH, BUT SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION MAY BE NECESSARY FOR OTHERS.

6. COMMENTS: EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SLECTION OF THE UNIVERSITY WITH CU AND PROGRAMMING AGENCY AND SUGGESTS COORDINATION AMONG THESE THREE TAKE PLACE ASAP SO THAT UNIVERSITIES CAN BE APPROACHED DURING LATE NOVEMBER-EARLY DECEMBER.

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**To:** STATE  
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